

THE EDDY CURRENT.

Pecos Valley to the Front, Croakers to the Rear.

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MESSAGE APPROVED.

Intervention of Other Powers Will Not be Tolerated.

Washington, April 6.—That the president's message will go to congress today is the best information obtainable in Washington last evening, though the kaleidoscope of internal events appears to be moving so rapidly at Madrid as to make possible some remarkable change in the aspect of affairs that will prevent this statement holding good. The message is ready, makes about 7000 words and has been approved by the cabinet. It recommends armed intervention (but so far as known without stating that this should be immediate), by the United States to prevent hostilities and provide succor for the starving people. It makes an argument against recognition of independence at this time, and leaves it clear that in the opinion of the administration it is the duty of this government to supervise the affairs of the island until, in the light of fuller and later knowledge, a stable government can be established. The attitude of congress on this policy can no be foretold in advance of its official promulgation in the president's message. The day has been prolific of reports of mediation on the part of the European powers, but a summary of all the news on this point is that the powers of Europe can not agree and that their interference would be unacceptable to the government of the United States. The safety of Gen. Lee, our consul and other Americans in Cuba is a matter of concern to the state department, but advice from Gen. Lee indicates that this would take some time and showed that he did not share fully in the apprehension felt here.

Throughout the day unusual activity was manifest at the foreign embassies, and legations representing the great powers of Europe. These representatives are the British ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote, the French ambassador, M. Cambon, the German ambassador, Dr. von Holleben, the Italian charge d'affaires, Count Vinci, the Austrian minister, Mr. von Hengimuller. These officials are kept fully advised from their foreign offices and it was expected that a concerted movement would be made almost any moment, about midday the British ambassador went to the French embassy and conferred with M. Cambon on the situation and shortly after Count Vinci was at the British embassy. Again at 5 o'clock it was understood that the French ambassador and Austrian minister conferred with Sir Julian at the British embassy. But while the conferences were thus going on and apprehensions were keen over an anticipated move, it could not be learned up to a late hour that any actual offer of mediation had eventuated. It certainly had not been made up to the close of office hours at the state department. The German ambassador, Dr. Holleben, appears to be the only one not actively participating in the conferences, but there is reason to believe that he is kept fully advised on the sentiments at Berlin concerning the Spanish situation. Accompanying the diplomatic comment was an undercurrent of suggestion that developments in Cuba were not looked for, and that the pressure of the powers and the pope on Spain might yet bring about an armistice in which both the Spanish troops and insurgents would participate. Viewed from the official standpoint here, the time for action has come and there is little likelihood that the insurgents could be induced to lay down their arms. The Spanish minister, Senor Polo y Bernabe, did not take part in any of the diplomatic conferences nor did he have occasion to visit the state department during the day. If the negotiations have taken any new direction it has been between Minister Woodford and the authorities at Madrid, and not at Washington.

Day of Conferences.

Madrid, April 6.—Yesterday was another day of conferences, cabinet ministers and ambassadors flying back and forth, and many of them, including the British charge d'affaires, calling at the United States legation. There seems to be every indication of the United States securing what she asked for at last week's conference, and which, in spite of counter proposals, have been the sole basis for American negotiations.

Resolution of Protest.

Yokohama, April 6.—At an important meeting of members of the upper and lower houses of the Japanese parliament yesterday a resolution was adopted calling upon the cabinet to protest against the action of Russia and Germany on the same grounds as those upon which Japan's withdrawal from the Liao Tung peninsula was demanded. It was also resolved to call upon the government to take the steps necessary to enforce the protest.

Consul Lee Warned.

Washington, April 6.—Information received at the state department from Consul General Lee at Havana does not indicate that he regards himself or the other consular officials in Cuba in any special danger at this time, and in reply to the suggestion that it might be expedient for him to hasten his departure, he has informed the department that about ten days would be necessary for the consuls throughout the island to arrange for their departure, except in case of emergency. No definite action has yet been taken in regard to the removal of the consuls, but it seems probable they will be recalled within the next day or two. The government has given Gen. Lee instructions to see to the safety of our consuls and all Americans in Cuba, and has given him full authority to go to whatever expense is necessary, including the hire of vessels that may be necessary to secure this end. Secretary Long was asked if he had received any advice from Havana, indicating a necessity for postponing the president's message, to which he replied:

"No the message will to congress today."

Washington, April 5.—Members of the house have been informed that vessels have been dispatched to Havana to take off Gen. Lee and our consular officers, as well as all Americans who desire to leave the island.

The names of the vessels are the *Bache*, the *Fern* and *Mangrove*, all government tenders; the *Olivette* and *Mascotte* of the Plant system and the steamship *City of Key West*, which have also been chartered and form a part of this fleet. In addition to these vessels, Consul General Lee is authorized to charter as many other merchant vessels, now lying in Havana harbor, as he may deem necessary for the transportation of American citizens to Key West.

MEDIATION INSTRUMENTS

Being Tuned to the Proper Key Preparatory to the Concert.

Washington, April 7.—The diplomatic corps is fully advised of the telegraphic exchange now going on between the capitals of Europe and is on the qui vive. One of the members of the diplomatic corps expressly stated the diplomatic views of the situation yesterday by saying:

"The accord or concert of the great powers is like a concert of musicians, the first requisite being that the instruments are brought into complete requisite harmony. That is what is being done now: the instruments are being tuned to the key preparatory to sounding the first note."

It is known at the embassies and legation that France and Austria are most active in endeavoring to bring about a common basis for concerted action. It is understood also that the exchange has proceeded sufficiently to acquaint the powers with the fact that any steps they may take towards mediation will be acceptable to Spain. There is not the same assurance that it will be acceptable to the United States, and indeed it is the prevailing feeling at the foreign establishments in Washington and this feeling has undoubtedly been communicated to the powers in the European concert, that the tendency in the United States is against any mediation from foreign sources. This is regarded as making the action of the powers much more difficult. It was said yesterday that any mediation by the powers would be based on the willingness of both parties to accept it.

As already stated, the understanding in diplomatic circles here based on the advice is that Spain stands ready to accept this mediation, while the unofficial indications are that the United States will not accept it.

The press bulletin from London yesterday saying that Great Britain had finally declined to enter the concert of the powers places a new and most important condition on this European movement and one which may finally defeat it.

Morgan Liners Purchased.

Washington, April 6.—The navy department yesterday morning concluded to purchase four of the ten ships contracted for Monday. The four vessels selected and which are now the property of the government are the *Morgan* liners *El Rio*, *El Norte*, *El Sol* and *El Sud*. No orders have as yet been sent to the naval authorities at New York as to the disposition of these vessels, but it is understood that the work of preparing them for duty as auxiliary cruisers will begin immediately.

To do away with the overdraw check rein in a horse's mouth a new bridle has a support which goes under the chin to keep the horse's head up.

Sore backs on horses are prevented by a new harness pad, which has a pneumatic section inserted under the soft leather covering to keep the pad from chafing.

WAR PREPARATIONS.

Infantries Have Received Orders to Move Instantly.

New York, April 6.—That the military and naval authorities of the country consider war at least imminent is shown by the character of the preparations they are making daily. The thirteenth infantry at Fort Porter, on Niagara river, and the twenty-first infantry at Plattsburg have received telegraphic orders to be ready to move instantly. The thirteenth is destined for the south and part of the twenty-first has already been transferred to the seventh artillery for Fort Blount. Two trains have been sent to Plattsburg from Troy for the twenty-first. They consist of fifteen baggage and ten passenger coaches. They will be held at Plattsburg until the commander receives telegraphic orders to move.

The entire cavalry and infantry of the United States east of Denver have been making preparations for mobilization in the eastern and southern states. Arrangements have also been made for an early call upon the national guard of this state.

It is learned from a high military authority that if war breaks out soon President McKinley will call upon the governors of this state and Pennsylvania for troops before making similar requisitions upon other states. The work of handling the guns in the fortifications, it is said, will be assigned to the regulars who have had experience in such duty, and the militia will do picket and guard duty at first.

Capt. Rogers and Lieut. Sargent of the board of auxiliary cruisers were engaged until a late hour yesterday afternoon in making out a list of ten steamships for use at auxiliary cruisers. Orders for such a list had been received from Secretary Long. The list will be ready to send to-day. Some of the vessels mentioned as likely to be included in this list of ten vessels are: *El Sol* and *El Monte* of the Morgan line, the *Yorktown*, *Jamestown* and *Princess Anne* of the Old Dominion line, the *Caracas* and *Venezuela* of the Red D. line, the *Kansas City* and *La Grande Duchesse*, the *Savannah* line, and the *Seminole* and *Comanche* of the Clyde line. Several of these are now in port.

Given Until Wednesday.

Washington, April 5.—The leaders of the Republicans of the house and senate who have been pressing for aggressive action on the Cuban question held several informal meetings during the afternoon looking to the arrangement of a programme for concerted action at both ends of the capital in case the president is not ready to transmit his message to congress on Wednesday.

Senators Davis, Foraker and Cullum were seen by the house Republicans, and as a result the committee appointed by the house Republicans last Wednesday, postponed the meeting of the conference which was to have been held last night until tomorrow at 11 a. m. At that time if it is apparent that longer delay is asked they are to proceed at both ends of the capital. The senate committee on foreign relations has agreed informally on their resolutions and the Republicans of the foreign affairs committee of the house are practically united. Both will be in favor of armed intervention and the blowing up of the Maine will be a feature of each. The house committee will call Capt. Sigbee and other naval officers before it tomorrow and the committee expects to make strong ground in the Maine affair. Both of the committees being ready to act the resolutions can be brought up in both houses on that day. Speaker Reed, it is stated, will not attempt to block any programme that has the indorsement of a majority of the Republicans of the house and when the conference meets on Wednesday, it is said, if the president is not ready to report, the committee will be able to convince the speaker beyond cavil that they are not only the majority, but a large majority.

Denies the Report.

Baltimore, Md., April 5.—Cardinal Gibbons was asked yesterday about his reported interview with President McKinley Sunday in regard to the mediation of the pope in the trouble between Spain and the United States. He said: "There is not a word of truth in it. I have not seen the president for some time. Nevertheless I hope for peace and to-day I am glad to say the outlook appears to be better. War is always to be dreaded and history shows that matters have always been worse after it than before. The conservative and thoughtful people of the country evidently do not desire war and seem to be united in the feeling that the whole question may be safely left to President McKinley and in spite of a few excited folk to congress as well."

L. Von Hoffman & Co., of New York have engaged \$275,000 gold for imports.

The Cruiser Diogenes.

New York, April 5.—A dispatch from Washington says: Orders have been cabled to Lieut. J. J. Knapp, commanding the torpedo boat *Somers*, purchased from Germany, to proceed to England and take command of the cruiser *Diogenes*, purchased from the Thames Iron works. The *Diogenes* is a cruiser of 1800 tons displacement and will be used as a member of the second line of defense, for which this government is purchasing a large number of yachts and converting them into torpedo boats. The *Diogenes* was originally built in 1882 for the Portuguese government, but the latter failed to take her and she remained at the Thames Ironworks and was rebuilt during the last year. She has a speed of sixteen knots, some protection and has an excellent battery for her size. Lieut. Knapp, it is expected, will arrive in England on the *Somers* to-day and will immediately put to sea with the *Diogenes*. He will have command of both vessels on their voyage across the Atlantic. He will be directed to proceed with all possible dispatch to New York, so that the two ships will be out of reach of the Spanish cruisers in case war should be declared this week.

The authorities admit that they are hunting for more vessels, but they seem to fear that their agents abroad will not be successful in getting any large vessels. There is reason to believe that they hope to secure some torpedo boats during the present week. The Chinese torpedo boats under construction at Elbing and Stettin, Germany, have been inspected by Lieut. Niblack, the naval attaché of this government in Berlin, but he has reported that they are not ready for sea. The builders have urged Lieut. Niblack to recommend their purchase, promising to hasten their completion, but the department fears that war may break out before the vessels are finished and they will thus be tied up.

Lieut. Simms and Commander Brownson are carefully inspecting torpedo boats under construction in France and Italy and the department has reason to believe that their search may result successfully. No authority has been given to Commander Brownson to buy the steam yacht which is under construction in Italy for the sultan of Morocco.

BODIES RECOVERED.

The Death List Will Exceed the Number First Supposed.

Ridgeway, Ill., April 5.—Last night almost two-score of victims of the Shawneetown flood have been recovered and hundreds of homeless people are dependent upon charity for food and shelter. The death list is likely to be largely increased when definite information from the negro quarter, which suffered most, is secured. The flood burst upon these people without warning and, owing to the weak construction of their shanties, they toppled over in the rush of water, leaving their inmates no means of getting out of danger. Hundreds of people who lived farther from the river front sought safety on roofs in upper stories, or made their way to the hills. They are being removed as rapidly as possible to places where they can be given proper care. No effort has been made to search for bodies. The relief work is well organized and the tents, blankets and food sent by the governor yesterday will be promptly distributed. Those who escaped lost everything and their homes are in ruins.

Claims Against Spain.

Washington, April 5.—The claims against Spain aggregating \$15,000,000 for injury and loss incident to the war in Cuba have been filed with the state department by citizens of the United States residing in Cuba. They cover claims for personal injury, imprisonment, etc. All are properly indexed at the state department and then sent to Minister Woodford at Madrid, where they are presented to the Spanish government.

Great Enthusiasm.

Havana, April 5.—There is great enthusiasm here among the Spaniards and thousands of them are entering the battalions of volunteers. The Spaniards say they prefer to fight with a great nation than a smaller one, as they would rather "die as heroes than die as cowards." They add that Spain has always had a special providence in great conflicts, and they have confidence that providence will not abandon Spain in her "defense of justice and her rights."

Finders Are Not Keepers.

In the case of an individual who had claimed a reward for the restitution of a diamond ring, which he had found, Judge Finletter of Philadelphia rendered a decision to the effect that the mere fact of finding the ring gave the finder no lien upon the property. The article had been lost; it was advertised, and to keep it was practically larceny.

FLOTILLA STOPPED.

Will Remain at Cape de Verde Islands Until Further Orders.

Madrid, April 4.—The Spanish cabinet has decided the flotilla is to remain at Cape de Verde islands until further orders. The flotilla will be joined later by a squadron composed of the armored cruisers *Emperor Charles V.*, of 9235 tons, the cruiser *Alfonso XIII.*, of 5000 tons, the armored cruiser *Infanta Maria Teresa* of 5000 tons and the armored cruiser *Cristobal Colon* of 6840 tons, which will accompany the torpedo flotilla to Cuba.

It has been decided by the government to send the armored cruisers *Vizcaya* and *Almirante Oquendo*, both of 7000 tons, back to Havana. They will receive orders to this effect as soon as they sight Porto Rico.

A national subscription to strengthen the Spanish fleet will be organized by a royal decree, but the decree will not be published before the declaration of war.

The cabinet, which met at 8 o'clock Saturday night, discussed the situation until midnight. At the close of the conference it was decided that no official news had been received at that time from Washington, but it was admitted that the ministers were filled with gloomy impressions. One cabinet minister declared that he had received private information confirming the extreme gravity of the situation.

The minister for war, Lieut. Gen. Corrales, submitted for the approval of the cabinet elaborate plans for the organization of the military forces of the kingdom. The minister for the home department, Senor Capedar in an interview, declared that everything pointed to war.

The cabinet has expected propositions for armament of the vessels for privateers, but it has been decided to await events before coming to any decision on this subject.

Finally a telegram from the Spanish minister at Washington, Senor Polo y Bernabe, was read at the cabinet meeting, in which Senor Bernabe said President McKinley would be overruled by congress.

Flying Squadron Ready.

Fortress Monroe, Va., April 4.—Commodore W. S. Schley will to-day notify the authorities at Washington that with the arrival of the Texas he will be ready to move at an hour's notice. The most formidable squadron of fast fighters ever gotten together is complete with the exception of the Texas. The cruiser *Minneapolis* began at noon yesterday to change her coal and painting will be finished to-day. Her bunkers are filled with coal, and like the other vessels of the fleet, she is fully ammunitioned. Commodore Schley expects the Texas within forty-eight hours.

Despite the enforcement of the Sunday law at Newport News, which had the effect of stopping Sunday work on the battleships *Kearsage* and *Kentucky*, the divers continued work on the bottom of the battleship *Massachusetts* yesterday and made such progress that Capt. Higginson believes they will be able to finish by night fall to-day. The work on the Brooklyn has been fully completed, and her eight-inch turret guns will now throw a much greater distance. The Columbia has finished painting and coaling and is in splendid condition.

Commodore Schley understands that the Texas is thoroughly completed in improvement, is painted the prevailing lead color, and is all ready for sea as soon as she arrives here.

Varying as are the opinions as to this assembling of fighting boats, it is generally admitted by naval and army men here that it is imposing.

In addition to the active naval preparations here Fort Monroe is being improved rapidly. The dynamo for the big electric searchlight is now in operation. The emplacement for the rapid fire and disappearing guns will be finished this week, and this port will be in a modern condition. Commodore Schley will take the Brooklyn out to sea to-day to try her turret guns.

Major Herford's Funeral.

Dallas, Tex., April 4.—The funeral of Major J. B. Herford took place Saturday from the family residence. Rev. W. M. Anderson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, conducted the services and paid a most feeling tribute to the departed. The floral pieces were numerous and very beautiful. The magnificent casket which enclosed the remains was fairly smothered with the floral offerings. At the grave simple services were held and then all that was mortal of the veteran soldier and business man was consigned to the tomb.

Two Hundred Drowned.

Louisville, Ky., April 4.—A special from Evansville, Ind., says:

At 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon the levee at Shawneetown, Ill., broke a mile above the town, and from all the information that can be secured here it is learned that a great part of the place has been destroyed, and that perhaps a large number of citizens have been drowned.

Shawneetown is seventy-five miles below Evansville, on the Ohio river. It is situated in a valley of extremely low land, with hills skirting it in the rear, and with twenty-five-foot levees in front, running from hill to hill. The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way a mile above town, under the pressure of the very high river, the water shot through the twenty-five-foot opening and struck the place like a hurricane, sweeping everything before it. Houses were turned and tossed about like boxes. The people were not warned of the break, and for that reason so many were caught. Those at home sought refuge in second stories and on house-tops. Those in the streets were carried before the avalanche of water, and probably a majority were drowned.

Citizens came from the place by skiffs to a telephone several miles away and asked for aid from Evansville. They said that more than 200 people were drowned, and they had reason to believe it would reach 500, or even 1000. The water stands from twenty to thirty feet all over the town.

There are of course no fires or lights in the place, and total darkness envelops the desolate scene. Consequently, it was impossible for them to have anything like definite information. The men quickly left the telephone, and no communication has since been had.

QUIET AT WASHINGTON.

The Members of the Cabinet Did Not Call on the President.

Washington, April 4.—There was comparative quiet about the White House and the departments yesterday. The members of the cabinet did not call on the president during the early part of the day, nor did they visit the departments. The White House was in its usual state of Sunday quietude, Secretary Day being the only forenoon caller, remaining with the president for about half an hour. Several of the higher officers of the state department and clerks in charge of transmitting cipher cables were on duty.

Assistant Secretary Day came to the state department in the afternoon, and immediately began dictating to his stenographer. He gave orders to admit no one, and would not be interrupted for any purpose. Other officers of the department remained in their rooms during the day. It was stated that the department had no official information about the consuls of the United States going to Havana for safety.

Secretary Long did not visit the navy department, but his mail was sent to his residence. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt was at the department for a short time, attending to his correspondence.

Both the war and navy departments have been considering bases of supplies in the event of hostilities, and all available ports on the south and gulf coasts have received attention. The general belief is that the gulf offers more and better places than the Atlantic coast. Pensacola, Tampa, Mobile and New Orleans are all believed to be available. No one place will be depended upon. The water stages given are: Pensacola 22 feet, Mobile 22, Tampa 20, and the Mississippi 26 feet. This is the low water entrance. It is not intended that the big war vessels shall be taken into these places to receive supplies. They will be coaled, provisioned and receive ammunition from lighters which can be sent over the bars into the harbors. It is regarded as impracticable to attempt to get the big ships up to wharves, and moreover their coming to land would not tend to increase the efficiency and discipline of the cruisers. It is said that Punta Gorda, farther south than Tampa, is being considered by the war department as a point for embarking troops and supplies in case an army was to be sent to Cuba. Light draft vessels could easily enter the bay for such a purpose.

To Strengthen Baskets.

To strengthen basket chairs, clothes baskets, etc., they should be soaked in cold water for several hours and then dried in the sun once every six months. This treatment would make them last considerably longer than they would do in the ordinary course of events.